

California's New Cigarette Tax Stamp

When will you see the new tax stamp?

Beginning in January 2005, the Board of Equalization will replace the current tax stamp with the new counterfeit-resistant tax stamp. The current stamp will be phased out later in 2005.

Where can you get more information?

If you have general questions regarding the new tax stamp, please call the Excise Taxes and Fees Division at 800-400-7115 (TDD/TTY: 800-735-2929). Select the "Timber, Property Tax and Other Taxes" option, and then "Cigarette and Alcohol Taxes." Staff are available to help you weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may also visit our website at www.boe.ca.gov.

To learn more about the scanning device available to cigarette retailers, visit the BOE website at www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spactssb1701.htm.

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Why a new cigarette tax stamp?

Cigarette tax evasion is a national problem. Recognizing this problem in California, the state Legislature passed a bill, which requires the Board of Equalization to replace the current cigarette tax stamp with a high-tech, counterfeit-resistant stamp.

What will the new tax stamp look like?

The new stamp will look similar to the stamp below and will be located at the bottom of the cigarette pack. The stamp will be produced on tamper-evident label stock and will contain new secure features, which can only be authenticated by authorized scanning devices. Retailers may purchase a scanner to authenticate the new stamp.

Micro
Printing

Stamp
Denomination



Pearlescent
Ink

Tamper-evident
Label